

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and must therefore accommodate other ISP firms who wish to purchase access from them. To deny this would cripple the 1996 Telecom Act. This wholesale provisioning stimulates competition and benefits consumers like me. Chairman Powell: Please do not allow BIG BUSINESS pressure and influence to take away my option (my right) to choose my own telephone company or ISP. Competition is healthy for the nation and my hometown of Farmville and is absolutely essential to the success of free capitalism and small businesses of our country. It stimulates innovation and promotes technological advancement. For too many years there has been no competition in Farmville for telephone or ISP service. Now we have better service than ever because small businesses know what customer service really means and are truly accountable to me, the real customer. I get a good service for a fair price. If that natural competition is eroded, so is accountability. Please do not let this happen.